

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 00051 051126Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01
ACDA-07 SAJ-01 IO-13 MC-02 /085 W
-----051134Z 077594 /13

P R 051025Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 622
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 00051

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PINS, EK, CD, UR, RH, MZ, CF, ACOM, CM
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY EBOUA

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 0022; (B) STATE 305437; (C) STATE 304365;
(D) STATE 307467; (E) YAOUNDE 0023

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY EBOUA REACTED
ALONG LINES SIMILAR TO PRESIDENT AHISJO'S TO US ASSESSMENT OF
SOVIET-CUBAN DESIGNS IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED
FOR WESTERN VIGILANCE IN REGION. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR
SPEED WITH WHICH WE WERE RESPONDING TO GURC'S AID REQUESTS MADE
SIX MONTHS AGO AND SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT PROGRESS BEING
MADE IN GURC'S STUDY OF OUR WATTS REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. EBOUA HAD EVIDENTLY GOTTEN INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT AHIDJO
TO RECEIVEME. I BEGAN BY GOING OVER GROUND COVERED IN REF A,
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DEALING IN GREATER DETAIL WITH US ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET-CUBAN
DESIGNS IN CENTRAL AFRICA (REF D) THAN HAD BEEN POSSIBLE WITH
AHIDJO. EBOUA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SOVIETS ARE CONSTANTLY TESTING
FOR POINTS OF WEAKNESS IN WEST'S GENERAL AND US'S PARTICULAR
INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA. WITH APPARENT FAILURE OF GENEVA
CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA, CHANCES ARE GREATER NOW THAN BEFORE THAT
EVENTUAL MAJORITY REGIME IN RHODESIA WILL BE BEHOLDEN TO SOVIETS

IF NOT ACUTALLY COMMUNIST. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT MUGABE, AND LINKED STANCE OF EVENTUAL ZIMBABWE REGIME TO POLICIES OF CURRENT MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT. IF PRESENT TRANDS CONTINUE, EBOUA AVERRED, THERE COULD BE BELT OF PRO-SOVIET REGIMES STRETCHING FROM MOZAMBIQUE TO ANGOLA.

3. EBOUA SHARED AHIDJO'S GREATER PREOCCUPATION WITH EQUATORIAL GUINEA THAN WITH CONGO, BECAUSE OF ERRATIC CHARACTER OF PRESIDENT MACIE. MACIE'S DEATH, REPORTED EARLIER, NOW WAS CONSIDERED NOT TO HAVE OCCURRED, BUT MACIE WAS NO LONGER SPEAKING. THE SOVIETS COULD BE EXPECTED TO USE VACUUM IN EG IN ORDER TO PROBE CAMEROON'S - AND BY EXTENSION WEST'S - VIGILANCE, A WORD EBOUA REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES. WHILE IT IS TRUE, AS AHIDJO HAD SAID, THAT CONGO HAS MANAGERS AND CADRES, IT ALSO HAS SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE, AND "IT IS HERE," I.E., ON CAMEROON'S BORDER.

4. EBOUA ALSO REFERRED TO CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, SAYING THAT BOKASSA WOULD MAKE A DEAL WITH ANYONE INCLUDING THE DEVIL IF HE THOUGHT HE COULD GET EVEN ONLY TEMPORARY HELP FROM HIM. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE SOVIET ARMS DELIVERY TO CHAD WHICH HAD MOVED THROUGH CAMEROON FROM DOUALA AND IMPLIED THAT WHOEVER MAY BE RULING CHAD AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME WOULD BE OPEN TO SOVIET INFLUENCES AS WELL.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MY INFORMING HIM OF POSSIBILITY OF AID TO TRANSCAM III AND FMS FINANCING, WITH ALL THE CAVEATS ABOUT CARTER ADMINISTRATION REVIEW AND CONGRESSIONAL REVISION, HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SPEED WITH WHICH US HAD BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND TO HIS ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR ARMS AID AND INCREASED CONFIDENTIAL

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DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, WHICH HE HAD MADE ON JULY 5, 1976. I TOLD HIM THAT THE GURC WAS OBVIOUSLY MORE PATIENT THAN I WAS.

6. IN PASSING, I INQUIRED ABOUT PROGRESS BEING MADE IN GURC'S THOROUGH STUDY OF OUR WATTS REQUEST. EBOUA SAID HE WOULD ASK HIS DEPUTY BOUBA BELLO, WHO HAS BEEN ANDLING MATTER, AND LET ME KNOW.

7. EBOUA, LIKE AHIDJO THE DAY BEFORE, SHOED KEEN INTEREST IN INTENTIONS AND PERSONNEL OF INCOMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION. HAVING STUDIED AT SCIENCES POL IN PARIS, HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER FAMOUS AMERICAN "SPOILS SYSTEM" WAS STILL OPERATING. I REASSURED HIM OF LIKELIHOOD OF CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY BY CITING STATEMENTS MADE RECENTLY BY PERSONALITIES OF INCOMING ADMINISTRATION. SPIRO

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 05-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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